

STATE OF ARIZONA
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
JANET NAPOLITANO
GOVERNOR

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NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 25, 2004

GOVERNOR NAPOLITANO ASKS PRESIDENT BUSH FOR GAS PRICING ANSWERS

PHOENIX – The following is the text of Governor Janet Napolitano's letter to President Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft:

February 25, 2004

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The recent spike in gasoline prices has caused significant concern in Arizona and across the country. I am particularly troubled by the fact that gasoline prices began soaring even in advance of the February 10, 2004 OPEC announcement of output restrictions, and I am concerned that producers, refiners or other participants in the petroleum industry may be setting prices based on factors other than competitive free market forces.

Because the recent price increases have a ripple effect on other critical components of Arizona's and the nation's economy, it is important that the petroleum industry give an accurate and straight-forward explanation for the causes of the recent price spikes. Because this is a national concern, I ask that you, Attorney General Ashcroft, or another appropriate federal authority conduct a prompt and thorough inquiry into these issues.

At a minimum, Arizonans and all Americans deserve a complete and credible explanation from the petroleum industry as to why prices have risen so significantly in the last several weeks. I understand that Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard has similar concerns in this regard, and if his office or any other agency of Arizona government can be of assistance to you in this inquiry, please let me know.

MORE

Yours very truly,

Janet Napolitano
Governor

cc: The Honorable John McCain
The Honorable Jon Kyl
The Honorable Raul Grijalva
The Honorable Ed Pastor
The Honorable Jim Kolbe
The Honorable JD Hayworth
The Honorable John Shadegg
The Honorable Rick Renzi
The Honorable Trent Franks
The Honorable Jeff Flake

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